

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Annual Council **DATE:** 21st May 2020

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WARD(S): All

PART I FOR DECISION

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, QUASI-JUDICIAL AND OTHER BODIES, OUTSIDE BODIES AND ALLOCATION OF POLITICAL GROUP OFFICER SUPPORT

1 Purpose of Report

To endorse appointments to Committees, quasi-judicial and other bodies for the 2020/21 municipal year.

To endorse appointments to Outside Bodies for the 2020/21 municipal year.

To endorse the allocation of Political Group officer political support to Political Groups.

To receive the report of the Leader on the appointment of the Deputy Leader and the Cabinet.

2. Recommendations

The Council is requested to:

- (a) Note that Committees are appointed and seats thereon allocated to political groups in accordance with the rules of proportionality as set out in **Appendix 1**.
- (b) Endorse the appointments made to Committees (including Chairs and Vice Chairs) at the AGM on 16th May 2019 (and any subsequent changes made by delegated authority) (as set out in **Appendix 2**) and approve the changes as set out below:
 - i) Employment and Appeals Committee – Councillor [to be advised] in place of Councillor Brooker
 - ii) Employment and Appeals Committee – Councillor [to be advised] in place of Councillor Sadiq
- (c) Receive the report of the Leader on appointment of the Deputy Leader and Lead Members (the Cabinet) and their portfolios (**Appendix 2**).
- (d) Endorse allocation of Political Officer support as Labour Group 1 FTE (37 hours) and Conservative Group 0.34 FTE (12 hours).

- (e) Note that, in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution, the Leader holds office until 28th November 2021.
- (f) Endorse the appointments made to quasi-judicial and other bodies at the AGM on 16th May 2019 (and any subsequent changes made by delegated authority) (as set out in **Appendix 3**).
- (g) Endorse appointments made to Outside Bodies at the AGM on 16th May 2019 (and any subsequent changes made by delegated authority) as set out in **Appendix 4** and approve the following appointment:
 - Royal Berkshire Fire Authority - Councillor [to be advised] in place of Councillor Plenty.

3. **Community Strategy Priorities**

Effective, transparent and equitable democratic and decision making processes are an essential pre-requisite to the delivery of all the Council's priorities.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Legal Implications

The recommendations within this report meet legal requirements (primarily the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations) and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The proposals have no workforce implications and any financial implications have been reflected within the approved budget. There are no Human Rights Act implications.

Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 imposes a duty on Council's to review the representation of different political groups on bodies to which the Council makes appointments. The Act requires that the review should be undertaken at the annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting.

The Council operates a 'strong leader' model which requires the Leader to be a Member elected to the position of Leader by the Council. At the meeting of Council in November 2017, Councillor Swindlehurst was appointed as Leader of the Council for a period of four years. In accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution the Leader holds office for a period of up to four years from the date of appointment by the Council or for such lesser period of time as the Leader holds office as a Councillor. Councillor Swindlehurst was re-elected on 2 May 2018 for a period of four years and his term of office as a Councillor will end in May 2023.

(b) Financial Implications

None.

5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 It is a requirement to appoint to the Committees, quasi-judicial and other bodies as set out in the Constitution.

Allocation of Seats on Committees, Quasi-judicial and other Bodies

- 5.2 Memorials confirming the establishment of political groups are usually received following local elections. Given the unprecedented nature of the Covid-19 emergency and the need to adhere to the Government's instructions in relation to lockdown and social distancing, local elections were postponed until May 2021. Allocation of seats on Committees, Quasi-judicial and other bodies have been based on the current Group Memorials. Should any changes be received, these will be reported to Council. Members will also be aware of the untimely passing away of former Councillor Sadiq. This factor was taken into account when calculating the allocation of seats and it should be noted that this did not result in any changes to the current Group entitlements to allocation of seats. The proportionality and seat allocation is set out at Appendix 1.
- 5.3 The Council is asked to note the allocation of seats on Committees, quasi-judicial and other bodies.
- 5.4 Allocations to Committee and Quasi-judicial bodies remain unchanged from those appointed in the municipal year 2019/20, with exception to the Employment and Appeals Committee as detailed in Paragraph 2 (b).

Allocation of Political Group Officer Support

- 5.5 Under the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 a political group qualifies for a post if it comprises at least one-tenth of the membership of the Authority. A political group cannot have more than one political assistant and the total number of political assistants is limited to three. The Labour Group are currently supported by 1 FTE (37 hours) Political Officer Support and the Conservative Group allocated 0.34 FTE (12 hours) Political Officer Support.

Appointments to Outside Bodies

- 5.6 With the exception to a change to Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA), no other changes are being proposed to appointments made to Outside Bodies from those made for the municipal year 2019/20. The Council is requested to endorse the current appointments, as attached at Appendix 4, for the municipal year 2020/21 and agree that Councillor [to be advised] replace Councillor Plenty on RBFA.

Dates of Council Meetings – 2020/21

- 5.6 The Constitution requires the timetable of ordinary meetings of the Council for the forthcoming year to be approved at the Annual Meeting. The dates of Council meetings (all at 7.00pm) for 2020/21 were previously agreed at the Council meeting on 20th February 2020 and are as follows:

21st July 2020
24th September 2020
24th November 2020
26th January 2021
18th February 2021 (Budget)

26th April 2021
20th May 2021 (Annual Meeting)

6. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Allocation of Seats

Appendix 2 - Cabinet and Committee appointments

Appendix 3 – Quasi-judicial and other bodies

Appendix 4 – Outside Bodies

7. **Background Papers**

None